

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Third Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac

INTRODUCTION

One of the themes that this narrative lectionary series hoped to explore is how God works through flawed people and institutions. The Kingdom of God breaks into the world, not so much through flawed institutions and individuals, but in spite of them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“Come All you People”** **#819 ELW**
(Please Stand on the Last Verse)

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God who searches us and knows us,
you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God’s child; † your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus healer of mind and body,

We sometimes suffer at the hands of physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Quiet our minds, still our hearts, and empower our bodies so that we may be whole and healed. Amen.

Please be seated

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4

¹I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

²I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴"I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.""

Selah

Please Stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL

Mark 5:1-20

Glory to you, O Lord

¹They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain; ⁴for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹²and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. ¹⁴The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has

Healer of all, thank you for sanctuary and safety. Uplift all who live where fear governs and evil divides. Give refugees and all who seek safety a path toward hope and new life. Grant healing and wholeness to all who are sick, lonely, or grieving (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of courage, thank you for faithful teachers and evangelists in this and every place. Inspire our faith formation efforts with all generations as you call us to follow you. Bless our children, youth, and adults who engage in learning. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Risen Lord, we marvel at the meaning of your resurrection. Give us faith to place all hope in you as we give thanks for the faithful departed (*especially*). May their witness help us follow your call. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING *Ushers will begin passing the offering plate and Blessing Box.
Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of wonder,
you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy. (Communion by intinction – red wine; white apple juice; gluten free available)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Send Me Jesus”

#809 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine.

Thanks be to God.

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!
Please come again.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Ushers: George & Kathy Larson

Greeters: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Hospitality: Praise Team

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 19, 2020: 9:00 am 60

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**Jan. 27 – Feb. 2, 2020**

Monday	1/27	11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/28	9:00 am	Quilters
		12-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	1/29	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
Thursday	1/30	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		11:30 pm	Funtimers: Card Players
Friday	1/31	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	2/2	9:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Winnie & Randy Zahradka, Sherry Whipple's mother.

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE We invite new members to join the Stewardship & Finance Committee. Copies of the committee's description are available in the office. The task of this committee is the care, conservancy, planning, attention, upkeep, and management of the church's financial resources and distribution. Contact Donna Ansell, Barb Forrester, or Mary Vukelich if interested.

TODAY IS SNOW DAY!!!: Pizza/Games/Junk BINGO – **January 26 from 2-4 p.m.** Join us for an afternoon of fun! We will have games to play along with some Junk BINGO. If weather permits, we'll try for some snowshoeing in the woods. Pizza and refreshments will be supplied. (For the junk BINGO, if anyone has some "good" junk to donate, please drop off at church prior to 2:00pm on Sunday the 26th).

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

LGBTQ GROUP: Meets Thursday, January 30th at 6:30 PM at Bethlehem Fellowship Hall if anyone is interested. If you would like more information about their group please call Rev. Becca Hinz 218-927-3935 or Rebecca Heimark at 218-232-1425.

AITKIN MARCH FOR LIFE today, **January 26th** from 12:45-3:30 pm. This is the 47th year of Roe v Wade. Please join us in a walk where every human life is valued and protected. 12:45 pm gather at St. James Church (299 Red Oak Drive), **Dress Warm!** 1 pm Prayer & Statement of Peace, walk 1.7 mi to Courthouse. 2 pm walk back to St James. 2:45 pm Fellowship & light refreshments. Participants are encouraged to bring infant & toddler items for the Women's Care Center of Duluth.

SWEETHEAR DINNER Malmo Area Lions would like to invite you to a "Sweetheart Dinner" on Saturday, Feb. 15th. 2020 to be held at Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. Doors open at 3:30pm with dinner at 4:00pm. Cost \$15. Reservations can be called into the church office, deadline is Feb. 10th

WANTED: Good, used flannel shirts – all sizes – to be used for a repurposing project for the Bazaar. Please drop off at church or with Judie Birk.



*I will sing of your steadfast
love, O LORD, forever; with
my mouth I will proclaim your
faithfulness to all generations*